

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: OVIP, CENTO

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT AT CENTO

1. OPERATION CENTER (DDO) PLEASE NOTIFY S/PRS, NEA, AND M. M NEED NOT BE ALERTED PRIOR TO OPENING OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY MORNING; S/PRS, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY AND ASKED TO BEGIN REPRODUCTION; S/S-O, PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATELY TO NSC FOR SCOWCROFT AND NESSEN.

2. FOLLOWING IS REVISED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT. TO BE DELIVERED TO CENTO MINISTERIAL IN LONDON AT NOON, MAY 26, 1976. TEXT IS EMBARGOED UNTIL 12 NOON LONDON TIME (07:00 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME). DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION WITH APPROPRIATE EMBARGOED INSTRUCTIONS ON COVER PAGE. ALL PRIOR COPIES OF PREVIOUS SPEECH SHOULD BE DESTROYED.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

STATEMENT BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF
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THE CENTRAL TREATY ORGANIZATION

LONDON
MAY 26, 1976

MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, MINISTERS, EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO MEET AGAIN WITH MY COLLEAGUES,
THE MINISTERS OF THE NATIONS JOINED IN THIS ORGANIZATION
AND DEDICATED TO COMMON ACTION FOR PEACE.

HISTORY SHOWS THAT CHANGING CONDITIONS ARE A TEST OF THE
SOLIDARITY OF ALLIANCES. THIS ASSOCIATION HAS MET THIS
TEST. IT HAS PROVEN ITS DURABILITY; THE RANGE OF
ISSUES ON OUR COMMON AGENDA HAS EXPANDED, NOT DIMINISHED,
OVER THE DECADES. OUR EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATES THAT
TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIPS CAN BECOME MORE SIGNIFICANT AND
MORE VALUED AMID CHANGE AND CHALLENGE. PRESIDENT FORD
HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THE CONTINUING COMMITMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO WORK WITH YOU FOR OUR COMMON
SECURITY AND WELL-BEING, AND FOR THE SECURITY AND WELL-
BEING OF MANKIND.

MY COUNTRY, MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, CELEBRATES THIS
YEAR THE BICENTENNIAL OF ITS INDEPENDENCE. AND WE ARE
ENGAGED AS WELL IN THE GREAT DEMOCRATIC ENTERPRISE OF OUR
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

OUR ELECTORAL PROCESS AFFORDS FULL PLAY TO COMPETITION
AND DEBATE. IT GIVES NO REWARDS FOR RETICENCE; IT
THEREFORE SEEMS TO EMPHASIZE DIVISIONS. BUT OUR
BICENTENNIAL REMINDS US OF THE DEEPER REALITY. IT IS, IN
ITS ESSENCE, A CELEBRATION OF THE REMARKABLE CONTINUITY
OF THE AMERICAN NATION. THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF
UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BEEN CONSTANT FOR THE
PAST THIRTY YEARS, THROUGH ALL ADMINISTRATIONS -- AND
THEY WILL REMAIN CONSTANT. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE
LEARNED THE LESSONS OF HISTORY. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO A
PERMANENT, ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE
WORLD. THEY ARE DEDICATED TO STANDING BY OUR FRIENDS
AND ALLIES; THEY ARE DETERMINED TO RESIST AGGRESSION;
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THEY DEEPLY BELIEVE IN THE MORAL NECESSITY OF BUILDING A
MORE STABLE PEACE; THEY ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN THE
DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR
PROMOTING HUMAN PROGRESS. THESE BASIC OBJECTIVES ARE
PERMANENT INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. THEY WILL NOT
BE DIMINISHED; THEY WILL NOT CHANGE; THEY WILL BE
REAFFIRMED.

THE MAIN LINES OF UNITED STATES POLICY ARE CLEAR.

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FIRST IS OUR COMMITMENT TO SOLIDARITY WITH OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS. AMERICA'S PARTNERS IN THE WORLD COMPRISE MANY NATIONS OF DIFFERENT STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT, CULTURES, AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES. BUT WE HAVE IN COMMON A DETERMINATION TO COLLABORATE TO ENSURE AGAINST EXTERNAL DOMINATION, AND TO COOPERATE IN MANY POSITIVE WAYS FOR THE GREATER WELLBEING OF OUR PEOPLES. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE REGARD THESE FRIENDSHIPS AND ALLIANCES AS OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS IN OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

THREE NATO MEMBERS ARE REPRESENTED HERE. THE UNITED STATES IS GRATIFIED AT THE CLOSE COLLABORATION THAT EXISTS TODAY AMONG ALL THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY AND JAPAN, WHICH IS SO CRUCIAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BALANCE OF POWER AND WORLD'S HOPES FOR ECONOMIC ADVANCE. I HAVE JUST COME FROM A MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IN OSLO, WHERE OUR SOLIDARITY ON ALL THE BASIC ISSUES FACING US WAS STRONGLY REAFFIRMED. OUR SENSE OF COMMON PURPOSE HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER. OUR PEOPLES HAVE SHOWN A CONTINUING APPRECIATION OF THE NEED TO ENHANCE OUR COMMON DEFENSE. OUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSIONS ARE REFLECTED IN COORDINATED POLICIES. AND OUR COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS WELL

UNDERWAY, REMINDING US ALL OF HOW GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE
CAN BE AN ENGINE OF COMMON PROSPERITY IF WE MANAGE OUR
AFFAIRS WITH WISDOM AND DEDICATION.
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THIS ORGANIZATION, CENTO, EMBODIES SIMILAR PRINCIPLES.
THE COUNTRIES ASSEMBLED HERE ARE INTERESTED IN THE
STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF A PIVOTAL REGION OF
THE WORLD. THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS AREA HAS
NEVER BEEN GREATER. THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRMS ITS
CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE SECURITY AND PROGRESS OF THIS
REGION.

PEACE RESTS FUNDAMENTALLY ON AN EQUILIBRIUM OF STRENGTH.
THE UNITED STATES WILL STAND BY ITS FRIENDS. IT ACCEPTS
NO SPHERES OF INFLUENCE. IT WILL NOT YIELD TO PRESSURE.
IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A RELIABLE PARTNER TO THOSE WHO
DEFEND THEIR FREEDOM AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION OR
INTIMIDATION.

THE SECOND ENDURING PRINCIPLE OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN
POLICY IS A COMMITMENT TO USE OUR STRENGTH TO PROMOTE
A SECURE PEACE AND THE REDUCTION OF TENSIONS.

WE SHALL NEVER FORGET THAT IN A WORLD OF INTERCONTIN-
ENTAL MISSILES AND THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUILDING A
FIRMER FOUNDATION FOR PEACE MUST BE THE INESCAPABLE
IMPERATIVE OF ALL OUR ACTION. IN THIS AGE THE VERY
SURVIVAL OF MANKIND DEPENDS UPON NUTURING AMONG NATIONS
FRAGILE HABITS OF RESTRAINT, NEGOTIATION, PEACEFUL RESO-
LUTION OF DIFFERENCES AND STRIVING TO TRANSFORM PRESENT
CONFLICTS IN TIME INTO A STRUCTURE OF COOPERATION. WE
OWE OUR CHILDREN A FUTURE BASED ON SOMETHING MORE SECURE
THAN A BALANCE OF TERROR CONSTANTLY CONTESTED. THE
NUCLEAR POWERS ABOVE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELF-
RESTRAINT; THEY OWE IT NOT ONLY TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE BUT
TO MANKIND. THIS IS WHY THE UNITED STATES WHILE STRIV-
ING FOR AN EASING OF TENSIONS CANNOT ACCEPT SELECTIVE
RELAXATION OF TENSIONS; PEACE IS INDIVISIBLE, CLAIMS TO
COEXISTENCE IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD CANNOT BE COUPLED
WITH DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT IN ANOTHER.

HISTORY IS REplete WITH THE TRAGEDIES OF THE BREAKDOWN
OF WORLD ORDER. IN THE NUCLEAR AGE, THE SCALE OF
POTENTIAL CATASTROPHE STAGGERS THE IMAGINATION. BUT
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THE POTENTIALITY OF STATESMANSHIP, OF CREATIVE DIPLOMACY AND PEACEMAKING, IS EQUALLY GREAT. IF WE ACT CONFIDENTLY -- WITH A COURAGE WORTHY OF THE IDEALS WE DEFEND AND REPRESENT -- WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR MEANS TO SHAPE THE WORLD'S PEACE. AND OUR OWN.

SO WE WILL NOT SUCCUMB TO A SENTIMENTALITY THAT SEEKS TO FOUND PEACE ON GOOD INTENTIONS ALONE. NOR WILL WE CONFUSE POLICY WITH A POSTURING WHICH LEAVES MAN'S TREMENDOUS CAPACITIES FOR DESTRUCTION IN THE SERVICE OF NO POSITIVE CONCEPTION. WE WILL PURSUE A STEADY COURSE, GUIDED BY OUR IDEALS AND OUR INTERESTS, STRIVING FOR A MORE PEACEFUL AND SECURE WORLD; ALWAYS MINDFUL OF THE SECURITY AND CONCERNS OF OUR ALLIES AND OTHERS WHO RELY ON US.

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IN THE CENTO REGION, A HOPEFUL EVOLUTION HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST YEAR TOWARDS MORE PEACEFUL RELATIONS. WE APPLAUD THESE EFFORTS.

PAKISTAN HAS MOVED IMAGINATIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS. WE WELCOME THIS. THE UNITED STATES HAS A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR COOPERATION WITH PAKISTAN

BILATERALLY AS WELL AS WITHIN THE CENTO FRAMEWORK. AT THE SAME TIME WE SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSIONS, RESTORE NORMALCY, AND ADVANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR SECURE AND PEACEFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.

WE ARE IMPRESSED AS WELL BY IRAN'S INITIATIVES TO EXPAND TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH HER NEIGHBORS. IRAN PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN REGIONAL STABILITY AND HAS ACTED WITH STATESMANSHIP. IT HAS MADE MAJOR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE FOR ITS SECURITY AND AT THE SAME TIME TO PROMOTE RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ON WHICH ITS SECURITY AND THE WELL BEING OF ITS PEOPLE MUST REST IN THE LONG RUN. IRAN HAS ALSO BEEN GENEROUS IN SHARING ITS RESOURCES WITH OTHERS, ESPECIALLY ON A REGIONAL BASIS. THE UNITED STATES VALUES ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN.

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THIRDLY, THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY SIGNED IN MARCH A DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP AND TO OVERCOMING THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE RECENT PAST. FOR THE SOLIDARITY OF NATO, WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE OUR TWO ALLIES, TURKEY AND GREECE, TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM. WE HOPE TO SEE EARLY PROGRESS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES ON CYPRUS IN WAYS THAT MEET THE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES AND RESPECT OF THEIR DIGNITY. WE HOPE TO SEE THE DISPUTES OVER THE AEGEAN PEACEFULLY RESOLVED. THESE STEPS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, THE MIDDLE EAST. AND EUROPE AS WELL.

THE MIDDLE EAST. AN AREA OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO CENTO, HAS ALSO SEEN HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENTS. WE SHOULD NOT LET THE PRESENT FERMENT AND TURMOIL IN THE AREA OR THE TEMPORARY INTERRUPTION OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS OBSCURE EITHER WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED OR THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS. STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY BROUGHT SIGNIFICANT RESULTS, INCLUDING THE SINAI AGREEMENT LAST SEPTEMBER. THE TIME IS APPROACHING WHEN NEW IMPETUS MUST BE GIVEN TO MOVEMENT TOWARDS AN OVERALL PEACE.

THE UNITED STATES REMAINS DEDICATED TO HELPING ACHIEVE A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. WE LOOK TO ALL PARTIES TO SHOW DEDICATION AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS FOR PEACE. WE ARE ACTIVELY EXPLORING THE MOST FRUITFUL POSSIBILITIES FOR RE-

NEWING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

UNFORTUNATELY THE TRAGEDY OF LEBANON HAS PREOCCUPIED THE
ATTENTION OF MANY OF THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE
HOPE THE ELECTION OF A NEW LEBANESE PRESIDENT WILL
BEGIN THE NECESSARY PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION WITHIN
LEBANON AND AMONG THOSE IN THE AREA WHO WISH LEBANON
WELL. THE CONTINUING TOLL OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN
LEBANON MUST END, FOR THE SAKE OF LEBANON AND HER SUFFERING
PEOPLE, AND ALSO FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND
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STABILITY IN THE ENTIRE REGION. THE UNITED STATES
SUPPORTS THE SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND
NATIONAL UNITY OF LEBANON AND CONTINUES TO URGE OUTSIDE
POWERS TO PRACTICE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT IN AN ALREADY
DIFFICULT SITUATION.

THE THIRD PERMANENT PRINCIPLE OF UNITED STATES POLICY
IS A COMMITMENT TO BUILD INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-
OPERATION TO PROMOTE PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC
JUSTICE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS FOR ALL NATIONS. THE
WORLD'S ECONOMIC CONCERNS HAVE COME TO THE FOREFRONT
OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY. IN THEIR SCALE AND COM-
PLEXITY. THESE ISSUES MOCK THE EFFORTS OF ANY SINGLE
NATION OR GROUP OF NATIONS TO SOLVE THEM IN ISOLATION.
IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE WORLD

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COMMUNITY HAS THE TECHNICAL CAPACITY TO WORK A MASSIVE TRANSFORMATION OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN EVERY REGION OF THE GLOBE. HUNGER, DISEASE, ILLITERACY, DEGRADATION --DECISIVE STEPS CAN BE TAKEN IN MANKIND'S AGE-OLD STRUGGLE AGAINST THESE SCOURGES. THEY WAIT ONLY ON OUR COLLECTIVE POLITICAL WILL AND DETERMINED DECISION.

THE UNITED STATES HAS PLEDGED ITSELF TO MAJOR EFFORTS FOR REFORM AND ASSISTANCE IF WE ARE MET IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT. LAST SEPTEMBER AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WE WORKED FOR MULTILATERAL CONSENSUS ON A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF ACTION ON TRADE, INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE SPECIAL PLIGHT OF THE POOREST NATIONS. WE HAVE CARRIED THESE EFFORTS FURTHER IN THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION LAST DECEMBER, AND THREE WEEKS AGO AT THE UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT IN NAIROBI. MANY OF OUR PROPOSALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED. WE SHALL CONTINUE IN ALL THESE FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR.

THIS ORGANIZATION INCLUDES BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS OF ENERGY, BOTH INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AND DEVELOPING NATIONS SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE RECENT CRISIS IN ENERGY. THIS CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA. IT AFFECTS ALL OF US.

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THE UNITED STATES IS CONVINCED THAT THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY COMPELS, FROM ALL OF US, AN UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT TO MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. THE WORLD IS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT AMID ALL THE DIVERSITY AND MULTIPLICITY OF STATES, WE ARE DEPENDENT ON A SINGLE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHICH MAKES US PROSPER OR SUFFER TOGETHER. THE RHETORIC OF CONFLICT, THE DOCTRINES OF STRUGGLE, HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER SAVE A CONTEST WITHOUT ISSUE. REALITY MAKES OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS COMMON PROBLEMS, AND OUR MORAL CONVICTIONS COMPEL US TO ENGAGE OURSELVES IN THEIR PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

THE LAST DECADE HAS SHOWN CONCLUSIVELY THAT ONLY THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES HAVE THE RESOURCES OR THE

MANAGERIAL SKILL TO PROMOTE SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT.
THEY MUST COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER, AND WITH THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE.
EXTRAORDINARY COOPERATIVE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN
A FEW SHORT MONTHS IN A SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.
THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN
THIS MOMENTUM AND ACCELERATE IT.

MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, THE NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE
CENTRAL TREATY ORGANIZATION HAVE AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIB-
ILITY IN ALL OF THESE AREAS -- MAINTAINING OUR SOLIDAR-
ITY, PROMOTING PEACE AND REDUCTION OF TENSION, AND
FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

I WANT TO PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE ENERGY AND IMAGIN-
ATION YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO CENTO AS OUR SECRETARY GENERAL.
OUR ALLIANCE IS UNIQUE IN THE DIVERSITY OF ITS MEMBERS
AND IN THE ENDURING PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE ENJOYED THROUGH
MANY CHANGING CONDITIONS. CENTO HAS BEEN A FORUM FOR
INTIMATE DISCUSSION, AN INSTRUMENT OF COMMON ACTION, AND
A SYMBOL OF INDEPENDENT NATIONS' DETERMINATION TO RE-
MAIN FREE.

AT LAST YEAR'S MEETING IN ANKARA I STATED THE CON-
TINUING COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES: "WE WILL
REMAIN FULLY ENGAGED BECAUSE OF OUR OWN SELF-INTEREST,
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BECAUSE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OUR WEALTH AND POWER
CONFER UPON US, AND BECAUSE ONLY BY STANDING BY OUR
FRIENDS CAN WE BE TRUE TO THE VALUES OF FREEDOM THAT
HAVE BROUGHT PROGRESS AND HOPE TO OUR PEOPLE." THESE
ARE THE VALUES MY COUNTRY CELEBRATES IN ITS BICENTEN-
NIAL YEAR, AND THEY WILL BE THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR
POLICY IN THE DECADES TO COME.

THANK YOU.

END TEXT.

KISSINGER

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